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Annual Report of the General Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee

For the Fourth Fiscal Year, Ended September 30, 1908.

I. LEGISLATION—STATE.

In the fourth fiscal year important changes were made in the child labor laws of eight states: Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Virginia.

The advance in standards of protection in Southern States is marked, notably the laws enacted in Kentucky and Louisiana. In Louisiana a fourteen-year age limit is established, with the prohibition of night work for boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen years. The Kentucky law removes the poverty exemption, which weakened the old law, and requires proof of age, lengthens the compulsory school year, limits the hours of labor and forbids night work of children under sixteen. The new laws in Mississippi and Virginia show a healthy appreciation of the importance of child protection.

A law was passed in Massachusetts limiting the hours of labor for women and children under eighteen to fifty-six per week. The law takes effect January 1, 1910.

New Jersey enacted a compulsory education law, requiring school attendance of all children between the ages of seven and seventeen, except that children of fifteen who have completed the grammar grades and are regularly employed may be excused. This places the age limit for employment during the school period at fifteen years.

In New York a law was passed transferring the enforcement of the mercantile child labor law from local boards of health in cities of the first class to the State Labor Department, and providing for the creation of a bureau of mercantile inspection. This law became effective October 1st.

In Ohio an important measure was passed limiting the hours of labor for boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen to eight per day and forty-eight per week. This measure met earnest opposition from textile and shoe manufacturers, who contended that such a law would result in great hardship to industries and people because of interstate competition. Many of these manufacturers are adjusting their operations to comply with this law, and it is believed some of them will gladly co-operate in our efforts to secure an equally high standard in other states.

In Oklahoma a compulsory education bill and child labor bill were drafted by Dr. McKelway, who went to Oklahoma at the request of citizens of that state and by a special appropriation to cover his traveling expenses. The compulsory education bill was enacted. The child labor bill passed

the Senate by a vote of thirty-four to eight, and the House by a vote of seventy-nine to sixteen, but was vetoed by the Governor.

FEDERAL.

The District of Columbia child labor bill, already presented in two sessions of Congress, was again urged by this Committee, and after some amendments, became law on May 28, 1908.

The contention of many residents and certain Congressmen that no child labor existed in Washington was disproved by the number of applications for employment certificates immediately following the enactment of this law. Thirty-seven hundred and fifty-four children, at last report, had applied for employment certificates. Of these 3,579 were granted and fifty-four refused because lacking either in age or educational qualifications.

The Committee gave hearty support to U. S. Commissioner of Education, Dr. Elmer E. Brown, in his effort to secure an appropriation of \$40,000 for special investigations under the Bureau of Education, but the bill providing for this increased appropriation was denied by Congress.

The bill to establish a Federal Children's Bureau was not actively urged, as it was deemed wise to concentrate our efforts in aiding the campaign of the Commissioner of Education. By action of the Board of Trustees on April 29, 1908, the Secretaries were instructed to use all diligence at the coming session of Congress in seeking the enactment of this measure. Since that date the members of this Committee and representatives of kindred organizations have been circularized in its behalf.

II. INVESTIGATION.

Extensive investigations have been carried on in Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Virginia under the direction of Dr. McKelway; in various parts of New England, especially in textile centers and the east coast of Maine, under the direction of Mr. Lord; in the glass, coal and mercantile industries and street trades of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia under the direction of Mr. Clopper; and in Kansas, Missouri and Colorado by Mr. Morris.

In the investigation of cotton mills in Mississippi, Dr. McKelway and his assistants reported 25 per cent of the cotton mill operatives under the age of fourteen and 50 per cent of the children under that age as illiterate. It was largely as a result of this investigation that Senator McDowell was able to secure the adoption of the child labor bill. The opposition to this measure was from a lobby of cotton manufacturers, who succeeded in reducing the age limit from fourteen to twelve, with a sixty-hour week for children under sixteen. The bill provides for factory inspection by the local authorities of each county.

A tour of investigation through South Carolina mills revealed conditions similar to those in Mississippi with respect to the employment of children and the literacy of children employed. A similar investigation in Georgia showed somewhat better conditions, though laxness was discovered in the matter of issuing certificates of literacy and school attendance.

While the conditions revealed throughout the South indicate the need for vigorous legislative campaigns, there are more children at work in the factories of North and South Carolina than in all the South besides. North Carolina still allows the sixty-six-hour week, and South Carolina allows all children of any age to enter the mills if they are children of dependent parents.

Mr. Lord, the Secretary for New England, has made personal investigation of conditions in the cotton factories of Maine and New Hampshire and in the sardine canneries of Maine. He reports few children illegally employed in the cotton factories. He finds in the sardine canneries a very large number of young children, and conditions that warrant vigorous action to secure a law prohibiting their employment.

Mr. Clopper, Secretary for the Ohio Valley States, has made an investigation and presented a report on children in the street trades of Cincinnati, and has traveled extensively through the mining and glass regions of Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia, securing information as to the operation of the present laws and the need for further legislation. The work of forming state committees in Indiana and West Virginia progresses encouragingly, and the published results of the investigation should prove a valuable factor in the legislative changes these committees will seek in the coming winter.

The work of Mr. Morris, special agent of the Committee, from July 15th to November 15th, was begun in Kansas, and his field study has been made in the factory centers of Kansas and Western Missouri and in the beet-sugar fields of Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado. In those states, because of the predominance of native parentage, a healthy sentiment prevails as to the necessity for the education of children and aside from the beet fields the agricultural situation is good. In the beet fields it is becoming a common practice to employ young children for excessive hours and sometimes in large groups, resulting in the introduction of many of the objectionable features of factory employment.

III. RESEARCH.

On November 1, 1907, a special appropriation of \$500 was received to render available for the use of students the existing official information on child labor in America. Thus far the work has consisted in collating and indexing excerpts from annual reports of departments of labor and factory inspection and from state educational reports. A balance of \$161.13 of this appropriation is shown in the Treasurer's report.

IV. TRAVEL AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.

As public interest in this subject increases, demands for aid in local and state campaigns and calls to address public gatherings multiply. The secretaries have been called to fill a large number of public engagements, while volunteer speakers have been secured in many cases to respond to invitations coming to this office.

The personal assistance of our secretaries was given in the legislative

campaigns in Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Virginia.

The Committee has been officially represented at the meetings of the Southern Textile Conference, Nashville, Tenn.; the National Conference of Charities and Correction, Richmond, Va.; the National Education Association, Cleveland, Ohio; the American Institute of Instruction, Burlington, Vt.; the International Association of Factory Inspectors, Toronto, Canada; the National Playground Congress, New York; the International Congress on the Prevention of Tuberculosis, Washington, D. C.; and the Biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Boston, Mass.

V. ORGANIZATION OF STATE AND LOCAL COMMITTEES.

State Committees have been formed during the year in Virginia, Mississippi and Kansas, and committees are in process of formation in Louisiana, California, West Virginia, Indiana, North Dakota, Minnesota and Massachusetts. Local committees have been formed in Newport News, Va., Bensonhurst, L. I., N. Y., and Los Angeles, Cal.

The reports from state and local committees presented at the fourth annual meeting attest the value of these organizations, and show an increasing appreciation of the importance of regulating child labor conditions by local forces. Fourteen state committees and two local committees reported.

VI. PUBLICITY.

The report of the fourth annual meeting held in Atlanta, Ga., April 2, 3 and 4, was published in full as a Supplement to the July, 1908, number of *THE ANNALS* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the principal papers and addresses were published as separate reprints for distribution. Many of our earlier publications have been reprinted, and pamphlets, leaflets, charts and photographs issued dealing with special phases of the subject.

To keep the work of the Committee before the public, we have a carefully selected list of newspapers, to which interesting material is sent as occasion warrants, and an index of 12,000 clergymen enables us to communicate directly with the leading churches of the country. Our reports are sent regularly to all state commissioners of labor, state factory inspectors and state superintendents of education.

In the investigations conducted, wherever practicable, photographs and descriptions have been secured. These are published from time to time, either in the official publications of this Committee, or through the columns of magazines and newspapers.

The total publications of the Committee to the end of the fourth fiscal year form a series of eighty-four pamphlets and nineteen leaflets. The total number of documents issued in the year is 242,000, and the total pages aggregates 1,763,400. There should also be added 68,204 letters sent to individuals describing the work of the Committee. One hundred and thirty-eight volumes of the first, second and third annual reports have been sold and distributed to fifty-five libraries.

VII. CHILD LABOR DAY.

Child Labor Day was observed January 25 and 26, 1908. We reached the churches through the religious press, which generally published the official call and in many instances added able editorials in behalf of the work. It has been impossible to estimate the number of pulpits in which the subject was presented, but requests for literature came from many hundred pastors and our clipping bureau reported a large number of special church services. In the coming year it is proposed to send a personal invitation to 35,000 clergymen, asking them to observe the fourth Sunday in January as Child Labor Day.

VIII. EXHIBITS.

The charts, photographs and literature which were at Jamestown, Va., during the Exposition, were removed to Atlanta and exhibited in connection with the fourth annual meeting and have since been used at the National Conference of Charities and Correction, Richmond, Va., at the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction, Albany, and in the Atlanta, Boston and New York offices.

IX. FINANCES.

The receipts and expenditures of the Committee as shown by the Treasurer's report for the fourth fiscal year are summarized in the following items:

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1908.

As examined, audited and found correct by Haskins & Sells, of New York, certified public accountants.

DEBITS.

Cash on deposit, October 1, 1907..... \$2,971.84

Receipts:

Paid subscriptions \$30,662.39

Special subscriptions:—

District work, Ohio Valley States.... \$2,500.00

Compilation of child labor literature.. 500.00

3,000.00

Sales of publications 311.68

Interest on bank balances 54.61

Miscellaneous receipts 68.95

34,097.63

Total debits \$37,069.47

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CREDITS.

Expenses:

Salaries—Administrative	\$8,200.01	
Clerks and stenographers	4,244.36	
	<hr/>	\$12,444.37
Stationery and office supplies	619.01	
Postage	3,059.27	
Investigation expenses	6,199.21	
Rent	1,535.41	
Traveling	1,695.58	
Printing	3,773.92	
Telephone and telegraph	297.45	
General expenses	425.22	
Legal expenses	79.00	
Purchase of material on child labor.....	107.45	
District work, Ohio Valley States	2,501.84	
Jamestown exhibit	538.57	
Compilation of child labor literature	338.87	
	<hr/>	\$33,615.17

Miscellaneous:

Furniture and fixtures	\$457.75	
Expenses of third fiscal year	74.46	
	<hr/>	532.21

Total credits \$34,147.38

Cash on deposit, September 30, 1908..... \$2,922.09

X. MEMBERSHIP.

During the year this Committee has lost the following members: Through death, Hon. Grover Cleveland; by resignation, Rev. John G. Anderson and Mr. Hugh F. Fox. There have been added to the Committee: Dr. Albert H. Freiberg, Mr. John Golden, Hon. Curtis Guild, Jr., and Mr. John Mitchell.

In the development of contributing memberships, the record of the Committee shows at the end of the year the following total:

Guarantors	23
Sustaining	484
Associate	2199
Contributing	176

XI. ADMINISTRATION.

At the first meeting of the Trustees, October 24, 1907, Mr. Lovejoy, who had been appointed Acting Secretary at the meeting of the Trustees, April 22, 1907, was appointed Secretary.

At the same meeting the Secretary was authorized to co-operate with the special committee on district work in attempting to secure a secretary for the New England States and one for the Ohio Valley States. Pursuant to this action, Mr. Everett W. Lord was engaged on January 1st to represent the Committee in the New England States. He at once established an office at 101 Tremont Street, Boston. Meanwhile, the disturbance of financial conditions in the country rendered the possible resources of the Committee doubtful, and it was deemed unwise by the members of the Finance Committee to carry into effect the action of the Board by establishing the Ohio Valley office, unless special aid could be secured. Application was accordingly made to friends of the National Child Labor Committee for a special fund of \$5,000 for the organization of state and local committees and for the study of conditions of child labor in the Ohio Valley States. This application was granted January 6, 1908, and on February 11th, Mr. E. N. Clopper was engaged conditionally to represent the Committee at Cincinnati and make a study of the local field. On April 15th, by action of the District Committee, Mr. Clopper was made Secretary for the Ohio Valley States, and on August 1st opened an office at 803 Union Trust Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. The development of intelligent interest in New England and in the Ohio Valley, the sections covered by our offices established last year, justifies a careful survey of other parts of the country to ascertain whether other district offices may wisely be established at this time.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 21, 1908, the following official titles were designated: General Secretary, Secretary for the Southern States, Secretary for New England, Secretary for the Ohio Valley States, Membership Secretary.

On August 15th, Mr. Lewis W. Hine was engaged to work under the direction of Mr. Clopper in securing photographs of working conditions in the Ohio Valley States. The results of Mr. Hine's work will be apparent in the photographs from which enlargements, slides and cuts for newspaper and magazine publicity are being secured.

Many requests for illustrated lectures are received at the office, and to meet these demands we have added to the stock of stereopticon slides. We have at present 256 slides, including duplicates.

On July 15th, Mr. Stephen P. Morris, formerly Secretary of the Associated Charities, Omaha, Neb., was engaged temporarily to aid in the formation of committees in the Western States, and his engagement was continued to November 15, 1908.

The development of district organization has considerably increased the staff of workers, while the enlargement of our correspondence with persons and organizations interested in this subject has greatly added to the work in the New York office. At this date the pay-roll consists of the following: 4 Secretaries, 1 Membership Secretary, 1 Special Representative in the Western States, 5 Stenographers, two in the New York office and one in each of the district offices—Atlanta, Boston and Cincinnati, 4 clerks in the New York office, 1 Photographer.

At the final meeting of the Board of Trustees for the fourth fiscal year the chairman, Dr. Adler, expressed his desire to be relieved during the coming year of the chairmanship of this Committee, on account of his absence in Europe as Theodore Roosevelt Professor of American History and Institutions, at the University of Berlin. The members present responded by expressing appreciation of Dr. Adler's able leadership, and the belief that his resignation from the chairmanship would do incalculable injury to the cause of child labor reform. Following this discussion, a resolution was offered by Dr. Lindsay, and seconded by Mr. Folks, the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, that Dr. Adler be given leave of absence for one year, and that Mr. Isaac N. Seligman be elected Chairman *pro tempore* during the period of Dr. Adler's absence. This motion was unanimously adopted.

The Secretary desires to express his appreciation of the assistance rendered by members of the Board of Trustees; the able work of the District Secretaries, the record of whose activities constitutes so large a portion of this report, and the cordial harmony in which all members of the staff have worked together.

Respectfully submitted,

OWEN R. LOVEJOY,
General Secretary.